

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
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| Soichi HOMMA |) | Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned |
| |) | |
| Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned |) | Examiner: Not Yet Assigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: March 12, 2004 |) | |
| |) | |
| For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND |) | |
| MANUFACTURING METHOD OF THE SAME |) | |

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. With exception of the U.S. patents, copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-233558 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application.
2. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001351945 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application.

3. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-261118 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application.

An English language abstract of each document is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 12, 2004

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

Enclosures
RVB/FPD/sci

ERNEST F. CHAPMAN
Reg. No. 25,961

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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|------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| Atty. Docket No. | 04329.3269 | Serial No. | Not Yet Assigned |
| Applicant | Soichi HOMMA | | |
| Filing Date | March 12, 2004 | Group: | Not Yet Assigned |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
| | 6,311,888 B1 | 11/06/01 | FUNADA et al. | | | |
| | 5,985,043 | 11/16/99 | ZHOU et al. | | | |
| | 6,228,680 B1 | 05/08/01 | THOMAS | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No | |
| 11-233558 | 08/27/99 | JAPAN | | | ABSTRACT | |
| 2001-351945 | 12/21/01 | JAPAN | | | ABSTRACT | |
| 2002-261118 | 09/13/02 | JAPAN | | | ABSTRACT | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |
| Form PTO 1449 | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |